

My name is Mike Papale.

I live in Wallingford, CT.

Bill # SB 981 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE AVAILABILITY OF AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS IN SCHOOLS

My Position: I believe all schools should have one AED on their premises and trained staff in CPR and AED use.

I am sure many of you have already heard or will hear many stats regarding cardiac arrest and the use of automated external defibrillators. I am here to make these stats a reality. I am a cardiac arrest survivor and one of these devices saved my life. About 2 and a half years ago, while I was just sitting down on a bench, I slumped over onto the ground. I was working at a basketball camp that is run by my father. There were about a hundred kids in the gym at the time. At first, no one knew what was happening. People thought I was looking under the bleachers, but unfortunately it was much worse. My father and my brother were in the gym watching me lay there on the floor, turning blue, with the hopeless feeling of not knowing what to do. Eventually somebody called 9-1-1. Unfortunately at the time there was no defibrillator at the site where I was. Obviously, this lessened my chances of survival greatly. Luckily, a volunteer EMT working right next door got the emergency call on his pager. He came over to the scene to see me lying on the floor gasping for my last possible breathes. He acted quickly, and started performing CPR, which sustained my life and my brain until the rest of the EMT staff arrived with an external defibrillator. Eventually I was shocked with the device. CPR can only sustain someone for so long. Someone suffering from a cardiac arrest cannot survive without the shock of an automated external defibrillator. I spent two weeks in the hospital and learned that I have a heart condition called Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy. I have a personal stat which doctors told me during my

stay at the hospital. Because of the situation and the fact that there was no AED on site, I was told that my chances of surviving were 1 in 1 million. To put this in perspective, there are about 3.5 million people in the state of Connecticut. If everyone went into cardiac arrest with the same circumstances that I had, only 3 or 4 would survive. Obviously, this is not the same odds if there is an AED on site. The quicker someone is shocked with one of these devices, the higher their chances of survival will be.

I am not here to help myself because I was truly blessed. I survived the terrible odds that I had. Instead, I am here to help the next person so their odds are not so slim. I am here to save the life of the next person who collapses. It can happen to anyone. I never thought it would happen to me. Nobody thinks it will happen to them. We can save lives by installing these devices in all schools. Sadly, in many cases, we are reactive and wait for something to happen before we act on. We have the opportunity to be proactive and to be ready for the worst to occur. We have the opportunity to save lives.